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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOTE-00 COA-02 DLOS-07

IO-14 DRC-01 /125 W
---------- 043397
R 190312Z JUL 74
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR ETRN CH JA
SUBJECT: SINO-JAPANESE SHIPPING TALKS STALLED ON "MATTER OF PRINCIPLE."

1. JAPANESE EMBOFFS TOLD USLO OFFICER JULY 18 THAT SINO-JAPANESE SHIPPING AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY IN TOKYO ARE STALLED OVER A "MATTER OF PRINCIPLE" RAISED BY THE CHINESE SIDE. AT ISSUE IS A CHINESE DEMAND THAT THE JAPANESE ISSUE A STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT MADE BY FONMIN OHIRA AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE SINO-JAPANESE CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOJ DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA FLAG FLOWN BY TAIWAN-REGISTERED SHIPS AS THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL FLAG OF CHINA.

2. ACCORDING TO THE EMBOFFS, THIS DEMAND IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE JAPANESE. HAVING ISSUED A CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT ABOUT THE TAIWAN FLAG ISSUE ONCE, THE JAPANESE SEE NO NEED TO REPEAT THE ACTION SIMPLY TO PLEASE THE PRC. DURING THE CIVAIR TALKS, THE EMBOFFS CONTINUED, THE GOJ WAS UNDER GREAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT, AND
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COMPROMISES WERE THEREFORE NECESSARY. NOW, HOWEVER, THE

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DOMESTIC PRESSURE IS OFF, AND THE GOJ IS IN NO MOOD TO MAKE FURTHER UNNECESSARY CONCESSIONS. THUS IN THE RECENT FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS THE JAPANESE TEAM TOOK A FIRM STAND ON THE ISSUES AND ALLOWED THE TALKS TO BREAK OFF RATHER THAN GIVE IN TO CHINESE DEMANDS. IN THE SHIPPING TALKS, THE EMBOFFS SAID, THE GOJ IS ADOPTING THE SAME TOUGH STANCE, AND THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT A TEMPORARY IMPASSE, EVEN BEFORE TECHNICAL TALKS HAVE BEGUN.

3. COMMENT: HAVING BEEN BURNED ONCE BY THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE EARLIER OHIRA STATEMENT ON THE ROC FLAG ISSUE, THE GOJ APPARENTLY IS NOT INTERESTED IN FURTHER PROVOKING TAIPEI OR, WE ASSUME, IN STIRRING UP MORE TROUBLE IN THE LDP BY REPEATING THE OHIRA STATEMENT IN A SHIPPING CONTEXT. JAPANESE EMBOFFS HERE PROFESS TO HAVE NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT. PERHAPS EMBASSY TOKYO CAN SHED FURTHER LIGHT ON THE MATTER.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, TRANSPORTATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING01224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740194-0358
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740734/aaaabcwm.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINO-JAPANESE SHIPPING TALKS STALLED ON "MATTER OF PRINCIPLE."
TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, CH, JA, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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